



Rural India as Employment Generator

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Abstract— India is a developing country. It has the highest number of young people below 35 years of age. Unemployment is a major issue haunting development. This paper attempts to address the unemployment problem by stating how rural India could become an engine of employment.

Keywords—Rural India, Agriculture, Unemployment, Government, Population

I. INTRODUCTION

Today everyone agrees that unemployment is a major problem in developing countries. It is also a fact that every problem has a solution. A deep inward analysis helps in solving this problem. Agriculture, animal husbandry, water conservation, social forestry and MSME can all become engines of employment generation. His paper gives a better understanding of this concept.

II. PRESENT SCENARIO

Rural India is often referred as backbone of Indian economy. A vast majority of Indians live in the country side. They are engaged in farming and animal husbandry as a source of living. Yet rural India is backward in many aspects. Education, health, sanitation, drinking water, electricity and proper transport are still a dream for many rural Indians. The share of agriculture in the gross domestic product is also declining over the decades.

The present education system in India is rendering most of the students as job seekers rather than entrepreneurs. Though hundreds of thousands of students graduate from various educational institutions every year, very few of them are gainfully employed. Most of them are unskilled or under skilled as per the reports of the industry experts.

There is a need for change in the mind set of parents, students, academic institutions and the government over the nature of education in India. The very fact that India is the second largest populated country in the world itself creates huge demand in terms of food, clothing, housing and transport etc.

III. AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTOR

Feeding such huge population itself is a challenge. This can be addressed by making agriculture related studies as priority during education. Awareness must be created among young Indians on the scope of agro related courses. Research must be given more importance on how to produce more from the ever-shrinking agricultural lands and the uneven monsoon. Government local bodies like village panchayats and mandals must be empowered to identify the opportunities in the agriculture sector and the universities must be encouraged to work with these local bodies.

Bio manure, Bio fuels and like products must be developed by encouraging rural youth and by providing financial assistance and access to markets. These micro and small units can be set up in every mandal as a unit. Each unit would become an engine of employment generation.

This would in turn reduce the use of harmful fertilizers and pesticides. United Nations Sustainable goals can also be met as the carbon foot print can be reduced by employing bio manures. Farm products in excess can be exported and this will generate foreign exchange revenue. An inclusive growth can be witnessed if governments move in this direction.

Poultry, Fishery, dairy, piggery and related activities of animal husbandry are a great source of employment generation. These activities are often looked down upon by educated youth. Infact these activities are a source of revenue generation both domestic and international, as there is export potential for these products. There are government schemes which encourage unemployed to take up animal husbandry as a source of living. These schemes fail as students get educated in technical courses and these courses have nothing to do with animal husbandry. It is therefore important that animal husbandry be taught at higher levels of education as a means of living.



The second such area of rural employment is the water management system. We often see agitations against construction on huge dams and reservoirs. The entire process runs over a period of decades causing price revisions, judicial interventions and inter-state disputes etc. India is blessed with abundant water resources. Unfortunately, we still depend on monsoon for cultivation of crops. Further, the situation becomes worse in summer with drinking water problems. Rain water harvesting must be included in curriculum and jobs must be created with every village as a unit for harvesting rain water and for supply for clean drinking water. The water saved can be supplied to agriculture and drip irrigation can also be encouraged. Instead of spending crores of rupees on dams, the government need to spend the same on village water bodies leading to employment generation.

In order to improve discipline in the use of scarce resources, government can set up water and gas pipelines to each household. Usage of the same can be monitored by fixing meters. The maintenance, supply, billing and collection of charges must be done at village levels. This would be another source of employment generation in rural India.

IV. ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

With 65% of population below 35 years of age, India needs to seriously concentrate on employment generation. Central government may concentrate on foreign direct investments for establishment of industries. Local governing bodies must be given free hands in employment generation. A separate budget or a separate ministry must lend a helping hand to the efforts of Panchayats. State Universities must work in close coordination with village panchayats in designing their curriculum. At least an effort must be made to identify select universities and select gram panchayats to work on the above ideas on a pilot project basis.

Instead of blaming the global trends for investment or unemployment problems, India needs to look inwards for a workable solution. Before unemployment problems leads to social unrest, a serious thought must be given to resolve this issue. Agriculture, animal husbandry, social forestry,

water conservation, sanitation and nutrition can all be machines for employment generation.

On a macro level, all the above stated measures would create employment, reduce corruption and empower government local bodies and thus lead to Gram Swaraj. This would also reduce migration of rural population to urban areas, thus reducing the pressure on cities. Strong infrastructure in villages means a strong India. This way we can realize the dreams of our freedom fighters and usher in a new confident and self-reliant India.

References

The views mentioned in this paper are the thoughts of the author.